

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the Application.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Barmore* (U.S. Patent No. 6,647,451). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The filing date of *Barmore* is June 30, 2000. The filing date of the present application is July 19, 2000. The attached Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 of Kelly Kordzik, Applicants' attorney, provides factual evidence that Applicants conceived of the present invention prior to the filing date of *Barmore*, and were diligent in filing the above-identified patent application for a constructive reduction to practice. As can be seen by the Declaration and the attached Exhibits, a draft of the above-identified patent application, virtually identical to the one filed, was in existence and delivered to the inventors for review two days before the filing date of *Barmore*. Upon successful and final review of the draft of the patent application by the inventors, a final version of the application was prepared, formal filing papers prepared, and these papers were then delivered to the inventors for execution and return to Mr. Kordzik's secretary for filing of the patent application on July 19, 2000.

As a result of the foregoing, the Examiner's § 102 rejection of the claims is overcome since *Barmore* is not proper prior art to the present invention.

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PATENT

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